

From: R M
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 3:41pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Judge Kollar-Kotally,

I oppose the proposed resolution in the MS case, better known as the Proposed Final Judgment. Over and above the usual economic risks presented by an unchecked monopolist -- rising prices and monochromatic innovation the nation's computer infrastructure will be increasingly vulnerable to attack if a single software system predominates. Obviously I am referring to Microsoft. Suppose that 80 or 90 percent of the world's grain supply came from a single variety of corns. We would be faced with the unacceptable risk that some single disease might wipe out an enormous portion of our food supply. In the same respects translate that example over to the Microsoft issue. Having only one kind of operating system or one kind of browser would make it terribly easier for saboteurs to bring the entire Internet to its knees. For one entity, such as Microsoft, to control 80 to 90 percent of the market for PC operating systems, Internet browsers, e-mail readers, and office productivity software is clearly a significant security risk. To then allow that monopoly to actively attempt to drive out its remaining competition would hardly be in the public interest. Diversity is the key in producing economic prosperity and improving the society as a whole. The PFJ goes against allowing diversity to flourish. Therefore I object to the Proposed Final Judgment.

Sincerely,

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